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THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 4, 1954

Lunch with E. at the Ritz.

Tenth quadripartite plenary session this afternoon in the gaudy Soviet palace. Gromyko looks grimmer and more ill than ever. Molotov appears tired but alert. Malik and Zarubin are as disciplined as the numerous Russian officers and soldiers [redacted] stationed at the various entrances. The latter are [redacted] smart, their uniforms speckless, their bearing quite superb. There are numbers of ununiformed security agents around but they are not obtrusive.

Molotov is a fresh air fiend. Despite the temperature having continued during our stay here below zero, our Soviet host has air-conditioning, or its equivalent, operating in the conference room. This horrifies the French, so allergic to draughts, as well as some of our own people, who sit huddled down into their coat collars with feet freezing in thin socks.

Afternoon debate ended with rejection by Molotov of Eden plan and presentation of one of his own. I would think there was no chance of reconciling the antagonistic views of East and West regarding Germany.

Tonight we all went to a concert at the Soviet Commissioner's. A pianist, a violinist, singers and ballet dancers had been flown from Leningrad and Moscow for this entertainment. What a pity that Russian politicians are so different from their artists. The violinist and ballerina were especially talented, and it was an impressive and enjoyable party. Afterwards there was a buffet supper. In the general drabness of Soviet life, [redacted] it is a puzzling contrast to see their artists dressed in white ties and tails, the conventional courtesy of their officials, the meticulous care with which they offer even food and drink, and many other accepted contradictions between the forms of traditional diplomacy and Soviet state philosophy.

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